

**CLAIMS**

1. Piston device for dispensing ice cream, for ice cream machines of the "instant" type, comprising a whisking cylinder (1) closed by a hatch (3) having an aperture (603) communicating with the said whisking cylinder (1), characterized in that the  
5 said hatch 3 has a cylindrical chamber (303) of relatively large diameter in which is mounted with a seal a rotatable drum (4) carrying a plurality of cylindrical housings (4a-4d), each having in its lower lateral area a through hole (304a-304d) which can be aligned with the said aperture (603) for communication with the whisking cylinder.
- 10 2. Dispensing device according to Claim 1, characterized in that a vertically slidable piston (7a-7d) is fitted into each of the said cylindrical housings (4a-4d), means being provided for the selective movement of the said pistons (7a-7d).
- 15 3. Dispensing device according to Claim 2, characterized in that each of the said cylindrical housings (4a-4d) is provided at its base with a die plate (504a-504d) provided with a series of through holes (604a-604d) for imparting any desired cross-sectional profile to the ice cream extruded through the die plates.
- 20 4. Device according to Claim 3, characterized in that the said ice cream extrusion pistons are provided at their bases with a series of projections or plugs (504a-504d) complementary to the holes (604a-604d) of the said die plates, in such a way that the ice cream remaining in the said holes is fully expelled at the end of the dispensing stage.
- 25 5. Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said cylindrical housings (4a-4d) carrying the die plates (504a-504d) are positioned at equal distances from each other and at the same distance from the periphery of the drum (4).
- 30 6. Dispensing device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said drum (4) comprises in its lower part a handwheel (404) for rotating it in steps.
- 35 7. Dispensing device according to Claim 2, characterized in that each of the said pistons (7a-7d) is provided with a reference and anti-rotation pin (607a-607d) which can slide in a vertical groove (20a-20d) in the cylindrical housing (4a-4d) in which the corresponding piston (7a-7d) is fitted.

8. Device according to Claim 7, characterized in that each piston (7a-7d) is provided in its upper part (107a-107d) with a substantially horizontal slot (207a-207d) which can be engaged by an element (10) for raising and lowering the engaged piston.

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9. Dispensing device according to Claim 8, characterized in that the said piston driving element (10) comprises a shank (210) connected to a guide piston (11) slidable in a cylindrical housing (17) formed on the surface of a cover (15) which closes the hatch (3).

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10. Device according to Claim 9, in which a re-entrant (311), in which is engaged a finger (12) fixed to a manually operated handle (19), is formed on the lateral wall of the said guide piston (11).

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11. Dispensing device according to Claim 10, characterized in that a reference and anti-rotation pin (211), which can slide in a vertical groove (18) in the cylindrical housing in which the said piston slides, is provided on the lateral wall of the said guide piston (11).